

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 IO-10

CIEP-01 COME-00 AGR-05 CU-02 SCCT-01 /094 W

----- 037322

R 091134Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9691

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMZBASSY DAMASCUS 0043

AMEMBASSY WNDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, XF, LY, SU

SUBJ: SUDANESE-LIBYAN RELATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 557 AND TRIPOLI 365

BEGIN SUMMARY. PUBLICITY IN KHARTOUM RE ALIER VISIT TO LIBYA SUGGESTS NO MAJOR BREAKTHROUGHS YET ACHEIVED IN SUDANESE/ LIBYAN RELATIONS AND THAT GOS NOT PREPARED MODIFY ITS MODERATE STANCE ON MIDEAST ISSUES. ACCORDING AMPLE PRESS PLAY GIVEN HERE, SUDANESE DELEGATION TO TOBRUK EVACUATION DAY CELEBRATION HEAPED FULSOME PRAISE ON LIBYA FOR ITS ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA AS PRELUDE TO UNABASHED PLEA FOR MONEY, BUT LIBYAN RESPONSE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LIGHT ON CASH AND HEAVY ON CULTURAL PENETRATION. SUDANESE ALSO REPORTEDLY WARNED LIBYANS AGAINST CONTINUED INTERFERENCE IN ETHIOPIA, WHERE SUDAN STILL ATTEMPTING PLAY MEDIATING ROLE. FONOFF OFFICIAL TELLS US BILATERAL PROBLEMS SHELVED AND

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RELATIONS marginally improving. SAME SOURCE BELIEVES

QADDAFI RIDING HIGH FOLLOWING FAILURE LATEST MIDDLE EAST
EFFORT BY SECRETARY. END SUMMARY.

1. HEAVY PUBLICITY IN KHARTOUM PRESS RE VP ABEL ALIER
VISIT (TRIPOLI REFTTEL) LEAVES NO DOUBT BUT THAT MISSION
HOPED GET LIBYAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHERN SUDAN.
LIBYAN RESPONSE REPORTEDLY MINIMAL DESPITE TALKS HELD WITH
PRESIDENT QADDAFI, PRIME MINISTER JALOUD, MINISTER OF FOOD
AND WATER RESOURCES OMER AL-MAGSI, AND FONOFF UNDERSECRETARY
ABU ZAID OMER DORDAH. ALIER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MAJOR ABUL
GASSIM MOHAMMED IBRAHIM, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF SUDAN SOCIALIST UNION, AND
TWO PROMINENT SOUTHERNERS: BON MALWAL RING, MINSTATE FOR INFOR-
MATION AND GENERAL JOSEPH LAGU, COMMANDER OF SOUTHERN COMMAND.

2. KHARTOUM PRESS PROMINENTLY FEATURED ALIER INTERVIEW
WITH LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY, IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED SUDANESE
ADMIRATION FOR LIBYAN DEVELOPMENTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS, INCLUDING
"POLITICAL GUIDANCE", AND LAUDED LIBYA'S "MORAL AND MATERIAL
CONTRIBUTION TO FORMATION OF QUICK SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN
QUESTION" AND ITS "CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN CONSOLIDATION OF
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA AND THE THIRD WORLD". THERE
WAS A MOTIVE IN ALIER'S MADNESS, AND HE WASN'T ASHAMED TO
EXPRESS IT: THE SOUTHERN SUDANESE URGENTLY NEEDED MONEY FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND "EXPECTED THAT SISTER AND FRIENDLY COUNTRIES
WOULD CONTRIBUTE".

3. SPOKESMAN RING'S SUBSEQUENT CLAIM THAT LIBYA HAD
AGREED TO OFFER IMMEDIATE AID, WITH DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN
A "JOINT COMMUNIQUE", ALSO WIDELY REPORTED HERE. THE
COMMUNIQUE, AND EVIDENTLY, SUBSTANTIAL LIBYAN AID, NEVER
MATERIALIZED, AND SUDANESE HAD TO CONTENT THEMSELVES WITH
ANNOUNCEMENT AT KHARTOUM AIRPORT ON THEIR RETURN OF AGREEMENT TO
ESTABLISH SUDANESE-LIBYAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY FOR PRODUCTION OF
COFFEE, TEA, RICE, SUGAR AND TIMBER, AND OF LIBYAN PLANS
TO OPEN FOUR CULTURAL CENTERS IN KHARTOUM AND THE SOUTH, A
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH, AND AN ISLAMIC CENTER IN
JUBA, CAPITAL OF THE (PAGAN CUM CHRISTIAN) SOUTHERN REGION.

4. IN BARELY DISGUISED REFERENCE TO KNOWN LIBYAN SUPPORT
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FOR ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, ALIER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD
LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY OF SUDANESE DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN
SUDANESE NATIONAL UNITY, QUICKLY ADDING THAT "RESPONSIBILITY
FOR SOLUTION TO ERITREAN QUESTION REMAINED WITH ETHIOPIAN
GOVT. AND ELF" AND STRESSING THAT PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S
MEDIATION OFFER STILL STANDS.

5. DCM DISCUSSED SUDANESE-LIBYAN RELATIONS WITH FONOFF

POLITICAL DIRECTOR AND AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO LIBYA AL RASHID ABU SHAMA, WHO ADMITTED TO DISAPPOINTMENT WITH RESULTS OF VISIT BUT OFFERED VIEW THAT RELATIONS GETTING BETTER RATHER THAN WORSE. TWO PRINCIPAL BILATERAL PROBLEMS, HE SAID, HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY SETTLED: LIBYA HAS AGREED TO DEFER INDEFINITELY SUDANESE REPAYMENT OF SEVEN MILLION POUND LOAN; AND ACTIVE SUDANESE DISSIDENTS LONG SCHEMING IN LIBYA HAVE BEEN RELOCATED IN SAUDI ARABIA, WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN WELCOMED ON CONDITION THAT POLITICAL ACTIVITY WILL BE DISCONTINUED. ABU SHAMA BELIEVES LIBYA WILL FINALLY COME THROUGH WITH AID FOR SUDAN (A GOAL UNDOUBTEDLY HIGH ON HIS LIST OF PRIORITIES WHEN HE ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI NEXT MONTH), BUT HE READILY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TALK OF REMOVAL OF BORDER CONTROLS IS JUST THAT (REFTEL).

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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6. ON RELATED SUBJECTS, ABU SHAMA SAID THAT PERPETUALLY IMMINENT SUDANESE/LIBYAN/EGYPTIAN SUMMIT IS DEAD LETTER, OWNING TO CONTINUING ANIMOSITY BETWEEN QADDAFI AND SADAT. IN HIS VIEW, QADDAFI FEELING TRIUMPHANT FOLLOWING BREAKDOWN

OF SECRETARY'S MARCH MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATING EFFORT AND SEEKING STEAL SPOTLIGHT FROM EGYPTIAN RIVAL. THIS CONNECTION ABU SHAMA ASCRIBES MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE TO PRESENCE OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD AT LIBYAN CELEBRATION.

7. COMMENT. SUDANESE REMAIN CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC RE PROSPECTS FOR LIBYAN FINANCIAL AID, DESPITE APPARENT FAILURE OF ALIER MISSION. INCLUSION IN GOS DELEGATION OF NIMEIRI'S KEY SSU DEPUTY, ABUL GASSIM MOHAMMED IBRAHIM, SUGGESTS IMPORTANCE THIS REGIME ATTACHES TO IMPROVING TIES WITH LIBYA. DIALOGUE WILL RESUME WHEN JALLOUD AND THREE MINISTERS TRAVEL AS SCHEDULED TO KHARTOUM APRIL 26 FOR AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE. WE SUSPECT JUST CONCLUDED SUDANESE VISIT RECEIVED MUCH GREATER PLAY IN KHARTOUM PRESS THAN IN LIBYAN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT WE WOULD WELCOME ANYTHING ADDITIONAL EMBASSY TRIPOLI CAN PROVIDE. WE WOULD ALSO BE MOST INTERESTED IN EMBASSY JIDDA'S COMMENTS ON REPORTED TRANSFER OF SUDANESE DISSIDENTS TO SAUDI ARABIA. QUESTION WE CANNOT ANSWER IS WHETHER QADDAFI AND COMPANY CONDITIONED SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN ON SUDANESE WILLINGNESS TO DESERT ARAB MODERATES FOR LIBYAN-LED RADICAL CONSENSUS ON MILITANCY IN MIDDLE EAST. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT GOS NOT READY TO TAKE THAT STEP, BUT WE NOTE THAT NIMEIRI NOW IN IRAQ AND THAT SUDANESE FINANCIAL SITUATION INCREASINGLY DESPERATE. BREWER

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